

REMARKS:

REMARKS REGARDING CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

The above noted amendments to the claims have been made so that the scope and language of the claims is more precise and clear in defining what the Applicant considers to be the invention. Specifically, claims 1, 4 and 13 have been canceled and the subject matter incorporated into claim 5 and 17 respectively. In accordance with the principles of 35 U.S.C. §112, 4th paragraph, this amendment incorporates all of the limitations recited in the claims from which these claims depend. This amendment is not intended to narrow the scope of the subject matter claimed in allowed claims 5 and 17. Rather this amendment removes the objection that these claims are dependent upon rejected base claims. The remaining amendments have been made to adjust the dependency of those claims from canceled claims 1 and 13 to independent claims 5 and 17 respectively.

Support for the above amendments to the claims can be found in the original specification as filed in the following locations:

The claims and amended claims are submitted as being clearly distinct and patentable over the art of record and therefore their entry and allowance by the Examiner is requested.

IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION:

In the Office Action dated April 28, 2003 the Examiner indicated that claims 5, 17 and 18 were allowable, but for the dependency upon rejected base claims.

In view of the above amendments, Applicant requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of all claims and ask that the Examiner indicate the allowance of the amended claims in the next paper from the Office.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing Order No. 12929.0061.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



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